

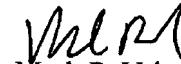
B. REMARKS

Claims 12-29 are pending in the application. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,304,750 ("Rashid-Farrokh") in view of Publication No. US 2002/0061056 ("Smolyar") and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,987,746 ("Song"). Claims 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rashid-Farrokh in view of Smolyar and further in view of Song and Publication No. US 2002/0041637 ("Smart"). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rashid-Farrokh in view of Smolyar and further in view of Song, Smart, and United States Patent No. 5,297,171 ("Koch"). Claims 19, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rashid-Farrokh in view of Smolyar and further in view of Song, Smart, and Publication No. US 2004/0190603 ("Dabak"). Claims 23, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rashid-Farrokh in view of Smolyar and further in view of Song, Smart, Dabak, and Koch. The examiner has objected to each of claims 15-17, 21, 24-25, 27, and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections for at least the reasons set forth in their response to the Office Action mailed on February 7, 2007. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite the processing of this application, Applicants hereby amend the claims to place them in condition for allowance as indicated by the examiner in the pending Office Action. Specifically, Applicants hereby amend claims 15-16, 21, 24, 27, and 29, rewriting them to incorporate all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, and cancel claims 12-14, 18-20, 26, and 28.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration toward that end.

Respectfully submitted,


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